

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that my resident, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention (Design, if applicable) entitled **STORAGE SYSTEM WITH A DATA SORT FUNCTION** the specification of which (check one):

- ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____, and was amended on _____
 _____ (if applicable).
☐ was filed on _____ as International Application (PCT) No. _____, and was amended on _____
 _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with *Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a)*. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under *Title 35, United States Code, §119* of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which the priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

NUMBER	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED	
2003-428718	Japan	25 December 2003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under *Title 35, United States Code, §120* of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating The United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of *Title 35, United States Code, §112*, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in *Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a)* which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (Patented, Pending or Abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine, or imprisonment, or both, under *Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code*, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I (We) hereby appoint as my (our) attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Stanley P. Fisher, Registration Number 24,344; Juan Carlos Marquez, Registration Number 34,072.

Send correspondence to: **REED SMITH LLP** Telephone calls to: Stanley P. Fisher
 3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400 (703) 641-4211
 Falls Church, Virginia 22042

☒ See following pages for additional joint inventors

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor	Citizenship
Isamu KUROKAWA	Japan
Residence Address - Street	Post Office Address Street
C/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome	
City	City
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	
State or Country	State or Country
Japan	Zip
DATE	SIGNATURE

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

PAGE 2

<i>Full Name of Joint Inventor</i> Junichi MUTO	<i>Citizenship</i> Japan
<i>Residence Address - Street</i> C/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome	<i>Post Office Address Street</i>
<i>City</i> Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	<i>City</i>
<i>State or Country</i> Japan	<i>State or Country</i> Zip
<i>Zip</i> 100-8220	
<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>

<i>Full Name of Joint Inventor</i> Hisaharu TAKEUCHI	<i>Citizenship</i> Japan
<i>Residence Address - Street</i> C/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome	<i>Post Office Address Street</i>
<i>City</i> Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	<i>City</i>
<i>State or Country</i> Japan	<i>State or Country</i> Zip
<i>Zip</i> 100-8220	
<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>

<i>Full Name of Joint Inventor</i> Shinichi HIRAMATSU	<i>Citizenship</i> Japan
<i>Residence Address - Street</i> C/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome	<i>Post Office Address Street</i>
<i>City</i> Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	<i>City</i>
<i>State or Country</i> Japan	<i>State or Country</i> Zip
<i>Zip</i> 100-8220	
<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>

<i>Full Name of Joint Inventor</i> Masaru TSUKADA	<i>Citizenship</i> Japan
<i>Residence Address - Street</i> C/o Hitachi, Ltd., Intellectual Property Group New Marunouchi Bldg. 5-1, Marunouchi 1-chome	<i>Post Office Address Street</i>
<i>City</i> Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	<i>City</i>
<i>State or Country</i> Japan	<i>State or Country</i> Zip
<i>Zip</i> 100-8220	
<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>